(a) the number of applications received by the Central Government for opening petrol/LPG agencies in Madhya Pradesh so far; and

(b) the number of applications disposed off out of them and action being taken with regard to the rest of the applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The oil companies propose to set up 116 retail outlet dealerships and 304 LPG distributorships in the State of Madhya Pradesh. Out of these, 24 retail outlet dealerships and 56 LPG distributorships have been allotted and the remaining dealerships/ distributorships are at various stages of selection.

Adulteration and Pilferage in Oil Tankers

2545. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of PETROLUEM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the oil tankers after filling are not sealed at the filling stations oil depots;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these tankers are then tampered while in transit resulting into short supply and adulteration in the product carried; and

(c) if so, what strict measures are being taken by Government to stop this pilferage and adulteration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir. For Delivered Supplies, all the oil tankers are sealed with serial numbered plastic seals and the numbers are incorporated in the invoice/challan after assessing the correct quantity. The sealings are supervised by an authorised person. After quality check, the density at 15 deg. is recorded in the challan/invoice.

(b) On receipt of tanklorries at Retail Outlets, seals are checked by Dealers. In case the seals are found tampered, after necessary investigations, action is initiated against the transporter as per Industry Transport Discipline Guidelines.

(c) Oil companies have a tamper proof new Tank Truck locking Sealing System to prevent pilferage and adulteration during transportation. The Tank Truck supplying products to the Retail Outlets would be locked with unique/ Retail Outlet specific locks. The keys of the locks would be made available with

the Retail Outlet Dealer only and a master key would be available at the supply location. Since the locks used in this system are claimed to be tamper proof and duplicate keys cannot be made easily, enroute adulteration as well as enroute pilferage are expected to be eliminated.

Study on Indo-Iran Gas Pipeline Project

2546. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tata Energy Research Institute have tied up with the Hydrocarbon Development Institute of Pakistan for jointly studying all aspects of the proposed Indo-Iran gas pipeline project; and

(b) if so, by when their findings are expected?

THEMINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OFPETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Government has no information on the proposed joint study by the Tata Energy Research Institute, as Government approval is neither required nor sought by the Institute.

Criteria For LPG Connections to States

2547. SHRIV.V.RAGHAVAN:
SHRI J. CHrrHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG connections which were given to each States in India during the last year; and

(b) the criteria adopted for sanctioning LPG connections to the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) LPG connections are not allocated State-wise. New LPG connections were released in a phased manner throughout the country depending upon the LPG availability, waiting list, slack available with the distributors and their viability during the last year. Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies had released 119.85 lakhs LPG connections throughout the country during the calendar year, 2000. The State-wise details are given in the Statement.